Headmasters' Conference.

89. **MR. C. P. THOMAS** (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) when the last English High School Headmasters' Conference was held ;

(*b*) whether provision in the budget was made in any year after that for holding such a conference, whether any conference was held since then, and, if not, the reasons for the failure ; and

(*c*) whether they will revive the conference this school-year (1925-26) and continue it in the years to come ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) The last conference of English High School Headmasters was held on the 14th, 15th and 16th April, 1921.

(*b*) Provision was made in the budgets of 1097, 1098 and 1099, but the question of holding the next conference of Headmasters was allowed to lie over in view of the changes likely to result from the deliberations of the University Committee.

(*c*) Government do not propose to have a conference this year. The question of holding conferences in the future will be considered from time to time.

Cocoanut Palm Disease.

90. **MR. A. J. JOHN** (*Vaikam*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that many of the cocoanut palms in the Vaikam and Shertallai taluks are suffering from a contagious disease ?

(*b*) Are they aware that the disease is rapidly spreading ?

(*c*) Has the Department of Agriculture found out any effective remedy for the disease ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the only remedy suggested by the department is to cut off all the leaves that are affected ?

(*e*) Do the Government know that the remedy suggested is of no practical benefit ?

(*f*) Do the Government propose to take some effective measures for the speedy eradication of the disease ?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*) :

(*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The answers are in the affirmative.

(*d*) No. Besides cutting off and burning the affected leaves, the department has suggested also the spraying of the healthy ones with an insecticide.

(*e*) It is reported that the remedy will be effective if the operations are carried out on all the infected trees in a particular locality. If some trees are treated and not the rest, the trees that have been treated will get the infection from the untreated ones.

(*f*) Remedial measures are being taken by the Government Entomologist and the work of eradication will be carried on more extensively.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*) : May I know the cause and the nature of this disease ?

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